

**Montgomery County Commission on Aging
Executive Committee Meeting, March 16, 2017
Minutes**

Isabelle called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

In attendance:

Committee members/CoA members: Isabelle Schoenfeld, Stephanie Edelstein, Judy Peres, Hileia Seeger

Liaisons: n/a

Staff: Odile Brunetto, Director, Area Agency on Aging (AAA).

The minutes from the February 16th could not be approved because we did not have them. We will approve minutes for January and February at the next meeting.

Chair's Report – Isabelle Schoenfeld

Latest sign-ups for Council Member visits: Discussion with the group around low numbers of sign-ups resulted in the decision that the sign-ups will be sent out again right before the CoA meeting on the 23rd and that the sign-up sheet will be physically passed around at the meeting at the CoA on the 23rd.

Talking Points with Council Members: Stephanie will be putting together a draft of bullets using the CoA's stated priorities. The Exec group agreed to discuss at the larger group their choices re: selected priorities (see below section).

Committee quarterly reports – H&W needs to submit its quarterly report. Judy agreed to let David know. Reports should be less than a page. Most important is the documentation of what the Committee is doing.

March 29th Stakeholder meeting – Per Isabelle the event is in good shape. Notice has gone out in:

- The Beacon
- Bethesda Magazine
- Press releases
- Community list serves
- GROWS

Per Odile, 88 people have RSVP'd not including the people in the room and 11 agencies signed up for tables at the events. Isabelle is looking for one more note taker. Odile offered to be the backup. Isabelle will let her know. Flyers have been distributed widely to the community.

Letter to CE re: approval timeliness of new members: Group agreed that as this year the process occurred much more rapidly than prior year, the tone should be adjusted. The new focus will be “thank you for the expediting of the process” (hope we can continue this) and addressing the issue of non-participating members and the waiving of their removal from the CoA. Isabelle will work on this letter.

AAA Director’s Report – Dr. Odile Brunetto

BCC/CE meeting March 21: FYI- The CE will be meeting with Boards/Commissions/Committees. Odile asked for two questions for the CE that would be submitted on a form prior to the meeting. The two questions we agreed to were: Given the Trump budget what do you believe will be the ramifications for seniors in MoCo? What contingency planning is being considered especially for those on Medicaid?

FY18 budget: After a general update on the budget, Odile went over a table that she put together showing the COA budget priority requests and their amounts, a brief description, the departments and whether it was in the CE’s budget or not. In addition, the table indicated budget items that were not in the COA requests but were in the CE’s Senior Initiative budget. Odile is following up on some of these items to gain a better understanding of what they are. The table will be discussed at the COA meeting on the 23rd.

The Exec. Comm. attendees went through the CE’s budget items and identified three COA priorities that were in the COA request and were not in the CE’s budget that the CoA should focus on during meetings with Council Members. These items will be discussed and voted on during the CoA meeting on the 23rd. Once agreed upon these are the priorities that Stephanie will highlight in the talking points that the PPC drafts for these CM meetings (See above).

- Public Guardianship -\$99,629
- Adult Foster Care Escorted Transportation- \$38,000
- Senior Center Plus - \$100k?? - going to see what dropping by 50K will mean to the program – currently only have 8 participants but the need is obvious

CoA testimony on April 4th: Noelle will attend and has 3 minutes to talk. This meeting is open to all.

HHS budget forum on March 16th at 6pm: Odile and Jay will be reporting this information to the group at the CoA meeting on the 23rd. Odile just wanted people to know this was open to the public.

Interagency Commission on Homelessness: The ICH has invited other Commissions’ members to join them in a meeting on March 21st in the County Exec Building, 6:00pm. They will discuss an initiative termed “Inside (Not Outside).” Isabelle plans to attend. Group is interested in the model they will use e.g. the Veteran’s model that has eradicated homelessness in some states.

Commission Business:

New Member Orientation:

- Isabelle suggested a Doodle poll so that all new members attend orientation. Odile said she would follow up.
- 9 people are expected to be approved next week d/t cancelations because of snow this week. 8 new members will be joining, 1 new member was a previous Commissioner (former Commissioners who have served two terms can apply for a new term after one year of not being on the Commission), and 1 nominated member moved to PG County, which is why it is no longer 10.
- 7 Commissioners volunteered to be buddies. Isabelle expects that one more will be found ASAP
 - Judy, Mort, Karen, Mary, Hileia, Reb, Isabelle
- 3 former Commission Chairs offered to be buddies – group agreed that they should be part of orientation instead of buddies since they do not attend meetings and are less involved.
 - 3-5 minute high-level talk about accomplishments while they were Chair with a focus on the importance of Commissioners active participation in Committee work
- Odile and Noelle are re-doing the orientation manual
 - More current handouts including info on AFMC and DF initiatives

Emails: Further discussion around the number of emails CoA members receive. Exec group came up with using FYI and ACTION in all headers to make it easier to prioritize emails. Judy will talk about this at the meeting on the 23rd.

Meeting locations: Group expressed concern around all meetings being at Potomac Senior Center. The group agreed that multiple locations allow for easier commutes for some and further, a chance to experience different centers. Odile said the process occurs a year in advance and that the CoA must meet primarily in County buildings. November is when next year's requests will go out. Exec committee to be more involved.

Committee updates:

Health Planning, Services and Community Supports Committee – Judy Peres

- No new update without David there to report - both Judy Peres and Hileia Seeger were unable to attend the last meeting.

Aging in Place/Community and Planning Committee – Mary Petrizzo sent Isabelle updates

- AIPCP had Clarence Scruggs, Director, Department of Housing and Community Affairs at their last meeting on Feb. 21st and this went well and created momentum to move forward.

- March 21st meeting will feature Joe Dobson of Homecrest House and Barbara Brubeck of Friends House on building affordable assisted living. A landlord/builder roundtable is being planned for the April COA meeting.
- Discussion with the Exec. group re: being more active next year in housing to tackle the rental market through the AIPCP committee as this is not yet being addressed in the AFMC Housing group.
- Follow up to Feb. 28th response letter from Gwen Wright, Planning Director, MC Planning Dept. - the letter was weak in its responses and did not directly address the CoA's concerns. Odile suggested a small group of Commissioners meet with Gwen in person.

Public Policy Committee- Stephanie

- Currently focusing on State legislation – a lot still going on! Per Stephanie most bills are moving along and next week is the week they need to change over for further approval.
- Additional letters are waiting for final approval and will go out
- After Reviewing the Justice I Aging Press Release supporting the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Judy drafted a cover letter to Maryland's federal delegation requesting the same.
- Dental bills are on hold.
- Stephanie went over a list of bills and where they were in the process – not listing them here because they are already on a list.
- PP is monitoring many bills at this time and are anticipating more changes. It is unclear how the Federal budget will affect the state budget.

Meeting called to end at 11:30 by Isabelle after approval of CoA meeting updated the drafted agenda.